

HOUSE RESOLUTION 280

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Michael C. Ellis, Sr., and the congregation of Impact Baptist Church on the celebration of their church's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic community of faith is Impact Baptist Church, the pastor and members of which are celebrating the church's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with the theme "Reaching Out, Finding Out and Helping Out"; and

WHEREAS, Impact Baptist Church (IBC) was organized by Dr. Michael C. Ellis, Sr., in April 2006 as a church plant of Bellevue Baptist Church; Pastor Ellis was led by the Holy Spirit to resign from Memphis Athletic Ministries to birth IBC; and

WHEREAS, the name "Impact" for the church was agreed upon by the IBC family to create a spirit of unity between IBC and Bellevue Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in its first two and one-half years, IBC experienced explosive physical and spiritual growth, with over 1,000 believers joining IBC; and

WHEREAS, IBC at first met in Pastor Ellis's home and then underwent several physical relocations; in 2016, God provided IBC with her own (Exclusively Impact) place of worship and ministry; and

WHEREAS, Impact is truly fulfilling her calling, and under the visionary leadership of Dr. Ellis and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church has implemented several new ministries; and

WHEREAS, Impact's vision to influence the whole person has led Pastor Ellis to birth a nonprofit ministry, Impact America Ministries, which he serves as executive director; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Baptist Convention has recognized IBC for baptizing more believers than any other predominantly African-American church in Tennessee and giving more to the cooperative program than any other predominantly African-American church in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael C. Ellis, Sr., is the oldest child and only son among the five children born to Pastor Willie C. Ellis and the late Mrs. Rose B. Ellis; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Ellis was converted and baptized in 1978 at Saint Stephens Baptist Church in New Orleans by the late Dr. Arthur Monday, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Ellis entered the United States Navy in June 1979, and during the course of his twenty years of faithful service to his country, he was stationed in Italy, his hometown of New Orleans; San Diego; Point Mugu; California; and finally, Millington, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, while stationed at Point Mugu, he was selected Sailor of the Year for the entire U.S. Navy (TAR) and earned his Master of Arts in Theology and Doctorate of Theology degrees from Golden Grain Bible College and Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Mike Ellis accepted his calling from the Lord to preach the Gospel in October 1988; he was licensed by the late Pastor Willie J. Moore in February 1989; and

WHEREAS, in May 1990, he graduated from Union Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology, and in February 1991, he was ordained by the Westside Missionary Baptist Association, Dr. John A. Brooks, President; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Ellis retired from the United States Navy in February 2000, but continued to work for the Navy in several capacities before becoming pastor of IBC; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Ellis earned his Doctor of Religious Philosophy degree in Christian Counseling from Jacksonville Theological Seminary in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Pastor Ellis was the first African American to serve as First Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; in 2014, he was elected the first African-American President of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in its 141-year history; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Mike Ellis was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for Baptist Hospital Systems in 2014; and

WHEREAS, he is fortunate to enjoy the love, companionship, and support of his wife of thirty-two years, the former Angela Mahoney; their six children, Derrick, LaToya (Ahard), TraDonna (Robert), Santrell (Brian), Michael, Jr., and Marquise; and four grandchildren, Ares, Amaiya, Malaysia, and Allen; and

WHEREAS, as pastor of IBC, Dr. Ellis is building and training a body of believers who intentionally reach out to the community, city, State, country, and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed IBC miraculously in ten years, and Dr. Ellis and the congregation anticipate God continuing to pour out His blessings as they stay focused, stay following, and stay faithful; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join in the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Impact Baptist Church, thank Dr. Michael C. Ellis, Sr., and the good people of this outstanding congregation for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.